

jurymen, however, who were evidently a practical men, would have it out, although he too was interrupted by the judge. This honest jurymen saw clearly that these matters were the very essence of the dispute. Witness, in giving his evidence for the defendant, said: "The old foundation wall was covered with brick rubbish; we cleared away the rubbish, and strained a tie and began to lay bricks. Mr. Price came and took the line away, and said it was his wall, and that he would not allow us to build upon it. I set our brickwork back at the south end 4½ inches from the face of Mr. Price's old wall, but at the old wall turned at the north end in toward the trustees' side. It was completed, in order to get a straight wall at that end, to carry it out flush with the face of Mr. Price's old wall."

By a jurymen—"What was the thickness of the wall you were building?"

"Nine inches."

"What was the thickness of the old wall?"

"Eighteen inches."

"Then that would leave nine inches towards the north end; what because of it?"

"Oh! we left that on the trustees' side."

It being proved that the plaintiff did not assault these men beyond pushing them from his premises, it was left to the jury by the learned judge upon the question of *malice*. His lordship told the jury they must find what, in their opinion, was going forward in Mr. Seeley's mind at the time he preferred the indictment; whether he conceived he had reasonable grounds for indicting the plaintiff, or whether he acted from malicious and vindictive motives; and that they must discharge from their minds all considerations as regarded the rights of the wall, or the regularity of the building by the defendant, which, he repeated, were not in issue. From this summing up it was expected by many that a verdict would have been for the defendant. The jurymen all surrounded this practical man when the time came for them to consider of their verdict; he sat, with his arms akimbo, in the midst of them and apparently they could make no impression on him; he was not that they had acted wrong by their own testimony. The jury asked leave to retire. They did so for two hours and a half, and returned with a verdict for the plaintiff with costs.

There appeared to have been considerable other irregularities and harshness of conduct in the whole affair towards the plaintiff, but I have already extended my communication beyond the intended limits, and must subscribe myself,

Sir, your constant reader,

AN ARCHITECT.

London, October 23, 1843.

IMPROVEMENTS IN TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.

Sir.—As I feel much interested in the success of your valuable publication, I lose no time in communicating some intelligence which I believe cannot fail to interest at the present moment.

Her Majesty's government, in a spirit which does them honour, have determined upon placing the fine statue of his Majesty, George the Fourth, by Chantrey, upon the eastern pedestal of Trafalgar-square, facing St. Martin's Church, whilst the statue of King George the Third, by Wyatt, in Cockspur-street, is to be removed from its present position and placed upon the western pedestal, opposite the College of Physicians. Thus will this splendid place be ornamented at once by two equestrian statues by our first sculptors, and we learn that the steps, the fountains, and the reliefs for the Nelson column will be likewise proceeded with immediately.

Not in this, for another decision, not less important than the one just mentioned, has also been come to, viz. the removal of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, from its present locality to a more eligible site, by which means a splendid view will be obtained, not only of Westminster Abbey, but of that now sadly obscured Chapel of Henry the Seventh, which may be justly regarded as one of the richest and most beautiful specimens of Tudor architecture in the kingdom.

The funds and the site have both been provided, and the proposed removal of St. Margaret's will take place during the present year.

In the hope that *THE BUILDER* will be the first journal to promulgate this agreeable intelligence, I have the honour to remain,

AN ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBER.

CORRIGENDUM SPECIFICATION.

Sir.—I beg to hand you the following correction, which I think will cause your readers. It is a literal copy of a specification given to a carpenter in this town a day or two since, to enable him to meet in prices for workmanship. I copied it from the original, which I know came direct from the party, who, I believe, calls himself an architect. The chapel is to be built about two miles from this place—

Specification of the carpenter and Joiner Work To be done at the new Chapel Rhyl, Llanrwys, Roof

The roof to be supported with 2 pairs of principles and 4 half principles on the octoon part all the principles to have one King and two queen posts both to be bolted through the beams and all the queen posts to be striped with iron straps and braces as usual to such principles three parings on each side the spurs to be and eleven inches apart well spiked to the parings to the first principle and to the wall plate clung Joust to be set the same distance as the spurs moved into and spiked under the beam bridged and well stored to the roof trusses and frames to be hardwood with grove in the inside casing to cover the plaster; sashes to be frunked and dowered also window boxes and mullings 2 inches set back on the angles also wooden brackets from the fixed to the ceiling 11 inches apart for Latin on Front doors to be in two bays each panel each planted 1/2 sculls circle Gothic and a counter rail on the back to form four panels inside hung with three pair of 4 inch Batt to a banded and rebated from secured with bolts and locks the pulpit and all the front framing to be planted the same as the front door all the frames in the front of pews to have but rail under all the doors and elbows to be formed on bevel according to the rest of the poodge planted with again all the inside framing to be to the underside of the form and boarded with 1 board to the floor the floor to be white deal dremad and jointed with 1/2 painted and poyled Also half principles beams to be bolted through the other principle beam and an iron rod from then to the front beam."

Ruthin, 29th Oct., 1843.

"CLARKE NOT CHRISTIAN."

Sir.—My only reason for troubling you with a few lines further upon this most important subject, is to enforce the originality of design, in order that the rising generation may feel themselves at liberty to invent for any purpose they may take in hand. I still say a designer should invent forms to suit the subject he undertakes to design for, and not, like an idiot, use the forms which were made by others for inferior purposes, and so patch them together in the hope that they may equally as well answer the more exalted purpose and nobler end then required. Great minds will never descend to borrow, even from their superiors; Leonardo da Vinci, Michael Angelo, Raffaello, Tintoretto, Titiano, &c. did not produce their sublime works by a patch-work system. They did not descend to slavish imitation, but made their works the offspring of their own minds. "The Last Supper," by Leonardo da Vinci; "The Last Judgment," by Michael Angelo; "The Transfiguration," by Raffaello; "The Assumption of the Virgin," by Titiano, &c. were not produced by the deplorable copying system. The works of such great men bear the most positive signs of originality, and as they show talent of the highest order in all the essentials connected with the subjects they are made to illustrate, they are sufficiently encouraging for every student to endeavour to fill their minds with new materials, in order to be prepared to design originally. He who places a dependence on others, will be sure to remain behind them; and no intellectual character should suffer himself to be the mere imitator of another. Great minds are ever sending forth new ideas, out of which little minds form styles, and make them stumbling-blocks to students. Instructors should advise their pupils to be naturalists, and not artificialists, for in the boundless field of nature will be seen the materials for every calling. He that hath eyes to see will by looking be sure to gather that which no one obtained before; and surely new ideas are more important than those which have been incessantly repeated, particularly when they were designed for Pagan purposes, for those of all others should be left for what they were designed, and not brought forth and pilfered together to illustrate the Word of God, for it would be next to a miracle that certain forms which were expressly designed for the fables of Pagan mythology could be made to awaken the human mind to the sublime and awful truths of Holy Writ. Let us go straight to the point, and not wander about in a circuitous path, while the right one is in view. There is no lack of talent in this kingdom; it only requires a right direction, and our faculties legitimately exercised, when we should soon see original works produced, and an end put to classical Pagan rubbish. The human mind is as capable now of sound and original thinking, as it always was; it only requires due cultivation, and to be sent to the fountain-head for the waters of life. I state not these matters now as an answer to "An Old-Fashioned Architect," but for the purpose of directing *THE BUILDER* readers to the importance of true principles of design, and to caution them not to be led away by old-fashioned notions.

The reason the Saxon, the Norman, and early English designers succeeded so well in illustrating the leading features of the law and the Gospel by the sculptured forms, architectural divisions, and arrangements they produced, was entirely owing to their minds being independent, seeing the folly of endeavouring to adapt forms that were foreign to

their purpose; and being determined to think for themselves, they invented whatever was required; thus, in like manner, should every one act. Great inventors are great observers. I would advise every one who intends to excel in either of the latter arts, to become active observers in the wide range of nature, suffering not even a blade of grass to escape their observations, and constantly storing up a fund of materials in nature's works, which will always furnish them with new ideas whenever they are required. It is by this means, and this only, that the human mind can be enlightened. Antiquarian lore will never make a designer, however much it may make a disputant; but your valuable *BUILDER* is not so large that it has columns to spare for such useless matter. Your leading articles show that you have great and noble ends in view; and I trust, from the great ability evinced in them, that they will make your admirable journal desired by every one in this kingdom, who is interested in the all-important building art. Let your work be what you call it, *THE BUILDER*, and not allow its space or your readers' time to be taken up with idle disputes and unwarrantable attacks, and, from your own resources, which bid fair to be great, you will make your *BUILDER* a work of the utmost importance as regards all matters connected with the building craft, as well as the intellectual improvement of the minds of your readers,—the greatest of all gifts which may be in your mind to bestow!

I am, Sir, yours truly,

GEORGE R. LEWIS.

61, Upper Norton-street, Oct. 30, 1843.

We have inserted Mr. Lewis's letter, because there is a spirit in it not altogether unbefitting the utterance of the "last word." We were disturbed to see the "warring warm;" and a display of the mettle of combatants; but feeling confident in the good sense and awakened courtesy of both parties, we let the matter proceed its length, because there was pains mixed up with it; and to those who did not warm with the fray, there was profit. We have had other letters on the subject, but as they were not, in our opinion, calculated to throw much additional light upon the matter, and were likely to confuse, as many voices do in all disputes, we presumed upon our privilege, and held them back. Now that the matter is over, for we must beg that it be so understood, leaving the public to form their own judgment, we may exercise our best wit in selecting the best suggestions that have been thrown out, as we have said, and once for a while, again we must beg to remind our friends who do as the honour to contribute to our pages, that it cannot be judged a mark of fair dealing or of honourable purpose, that men should assume so much one over another. It is really ridiculous to see what airs and strutting one may indulge in, as if our own good opinion was not the first thing to be distrusted, and an evil opinion of others the last thing to be cultivated. We will conclude by begging our friends "An Old-Fashioned Architect," and Mr. Lewis, with their rested ability, to join with us in earnest, practical labours for the benefit of the student and the workman. We are getting a little too high for some of them, but are glad to make ourselves heard in calling the "hark back" upon our original posture.

CHURCHES.—The interior of the cathedral is now undergoing reformation, such as restoring the ancient tomb and their elegant, and the mutilated Parbeck marble columns, which have so many years been suffered to remain in a decayed state. The whole is under the superintendence of Mr. Richard, son, who lately displayed his talent in restoring the Temple Church to its present beautiful state.

The towns and people of Hamburg, in acknowledgment of her Majesty's bounty, and the liberality of the English nation, in alleviating the distress occasioned by the late calamities, have addressed a letter to the queen, signed by the presiding burgomaster, and forwarded it to their president here, Mr. C. O. Hansen, who has presented it to her Majesty. The address is beautifully written on vellum, and illuminated with gold and coloured letters. The illustrations did the writing are executed in the taste which befit to present it to the beginning of the nineteenth century, combining classical antiquity with the Gothic, and forming a fantastic style entirely designated the Renaissance. The whole is bound in boards, made from the oak wainscoting of the former chamber of the Senate House, saved from decay, with antique hinges, studs, and a clasp, and a flange in the form of a book. The ornaments on the boards are, on one side the mural-crowned figure of Hammonia, the titular genius of Hamburg; and on the other, the arms of the city, made from the battlements of the churches destroyed by the devouring element.